

NATURE POSITIVE — COMMONWEALTH REFORM

**167. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to concerns, as outlined in *The West Australian* on 12 March, regarding the secret overhaul of environmental laws related to the so-called nature positive reforms.

- (1) Has the Minister for Environment received a full briefing on the proposed reforms?
- (2) Does the minister support the federal minister's approach of holding secretive closed-door briefings on these changes, given they will have a significant impact on jobs and the wellbeing of Western Australians?
- (3) Is the minister undertaking an analysis of the impact on our environmental regulatory system in terms of duplication and the cost to proponents?
- (4) If yes to (3), when will that analysis be available to the public?
- (5) If no to (3), why not?

**Hon DARREN WEST replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1)–(5) The state government is engaging with the commonwealth government on an ongoing basis to understand the potential impact of the planned legislation on Western Australia and to highlight the need for thorough consultation on the detail of the legislation and the implementation of associated regulations, guidelines and policies. The Cook government is working hard to streamline our own approval processes and continues to emphasise the importance of reduced duplication and a streamlined interface between commonwealth and state processes.

Several members interjected.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Can we please allow the member on his feet to provide the answer.

**Hon DARREN WEST:** President, should I start that answer again, or are you happy for me to continue?

**The PRESIDENT:** Thank you, honourable member. I am sure the member heard the answer, given you have a very loud and clear voice.

**Hon DARREN WEST:** Thank you, President.

**The PRESIDENT:** Please continue.

**Hon DARREN WEST:** I will continue.

This government will maintain advocacy for the needs and interests of Western Australia to be appropriately considered in the development of these commonwealth reforms.